conducted a survey through an independent agency regarding performance of cellular mobile networks and customer satisfaction in respect of various parameters of the mobile service.

(b) As per quarterly performance monitoring report, for the quarter ending 30th June, 2006, submitted by the Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) to TRAI, it has been observed that some of the service providers are not meeting the quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks for some of the service areas. As per the survey report for the same quarter, 57% of the CMSPs do not meet the benchmark for all the parameters taken together.

(c) to (e) Whenever deficiency, in achieving quality of service benchmarks by CMSPs, is noticed, the matter is taken up by TRAI with the senior management of the concerned service providers.

In order to address customer's concerns relating to Metering and Billing accuracy, TRAI had notified the quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulations 2006 on 31st March, 2006. As per the Regulation, the service providers have to get audited and certified their Metering and Billing systems from any one of the auditors notified by the TRAI and file the audit report by 30th June of every year. They are also required to file with TRAI the action taken report on the audit report by 30th September of every year. TRAI has notified the panel of auditors on 28th August, 2006.

Million Dollar Contract from UN

2434. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL) has got huge contracts worth 100 Million dollars from UN;

(b) if so, it is also a fact that the Chief of Commodity Procurement for the UN, formerly Indian Government official, used his good offices in getting this contract to TCIL;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Associated Press published UN investigation findings; and

(d) if so, the details regarding this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. the UN awarded contracts amounting to US$109.05 million to TCIL during the period 1999-2005, out of which the actual purchase orders, to the extent of US$63.78 million were executed by TCIL.

(b) No, Sir. All the contracts were awarded to TCIL on the basis of its technical strength and Commercial/Financial Competitiveness.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Associated Press has published a news item on an investigation by UN into allegation of impropriety in purchases against a UN official.

(d) A copy of Associated Press News item dated 2nd September, 2006 is given in the statement.

Statement

Copy of the Associated Press News item dated 2nd September 2006

U.N. report accuses official of steering contracts to company from his native India.

NICK Wadhams, Associated Press Writer. Associated Press. New York: Sep 2, 2006. pg. 1 abstract (Document Summary)

[Sanjaya Bahel] was chief of commodity procurement for the U.N. from 1998-2003. From 1999-2004, TCIL received more than $100 million in U.N. contracts, the report said.

It claimed that Bahel ignored evidence that TCIL wrongly withheld money from employees sent to U.N. peacekeeping missions in places such as Liberia, Congo and Kosovo to do communications work. While the workers claimed they were only getting a pittance—sometimes as little as $5 for daily expenses—the money enriched another company associated with the India businessman and his son.

After learning the details of Bahel's case were about to be made public, the U.N. issued a statement through spokesman Stephane Dujarric on Thursday that it had suspended an unidentified male staffer and charged him with misconduct. Bahel confirmed to the AP late Thursday that he was that staffer.

Full Text (662 words)

copyright Associated Press Sep 2, 2006

United Nations (AP) - A United Nations investigation has concluded that a U.N. official took kickbacks such as low-cost apartments for steering lucrative contracts to a company from his native India.

The investigation claimed that Sanjaya Bahel, who was formally an official in the Indian government when he was working for the U.N. under contract, used his relationship with a wealthy Indian businessman and his son to steer the deals to the company they represented, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.

The confidential report detailing the investigation's findings found Bahel refused to act on complaints that the company denied payment to employees in peacekeeping missions worldwide despite repeated claims they did not have enough money to eat. The report was shown to the Associated Press.

Bahel vehemently denied the claims and said the U.N. only notified him of them Thursday.

"To me, the allegations are not correct," he told the AP. "I have good reasoning and valid reasoning to counter those."

In the report, TCIL acknowledged "some responsibility for the severe problems" in contracts with the U.N. and blamed the India businessmen Bahel had contact with, Nanak Kohli, and his son Nishan Kohli. Neither man could immediately be reached for comment.

According to the report, Bahel had a longtime relationship with the Kohlis, who were on the guest list for his son's 2002 wedding. In 2003, Bahel rented two side-by-side New York apartments from them at rates well below the market and later bought the apartments, where he now lives, at a favorable price, it said.

J.L. Kachru, general manager of TCIL, said the company does not have any contact with Bahel.

"We haven't heard anything from the United Nations so far", he said.

The allegations spelled out in the report are the latest in a string of claims of fraud in the procurement department, which is responsible for awarding millions of dollars in contracts to do business with the U.N.

worldwide. Details were also reported in Friday's editions of the Italian business newspaper Il Sole 24 Oro.

Bahel was chief of commodity procurement for the U.N. from 1998-2003. From 1999-2004, TCIL received more than $100 million in U.N. contracts, the report said

Claimed that Bahel ignored evidence that TCIL wrongly withheld money from employees sent to U.N. peacekeeping missions in places such as Liberia, Congo and Kosovo to do communication work. While the workers claimed they were only getting a pittance-sometimes as little as $5 for daily expenses-the money enriched another company associated with the Indian businessman and his son.

After learning the details of Bahel's case were about to be made public, the U.N. issued a statement through spokesman Stephane Dujarric on Thursday that it had suspended an unidentified male staffer and charged him with misconduct. Bahel confirmed to the AP late Thursday that he was that staffer.

Dujarric said the staffer is now being given an opportunity to respond, which is an essential element in the U.N.'s system of internal justice.

"Evidence in this case has also been shared with the prosecutorial authorities of the host country", he said.

A U.N. diplomat confirmed the evidence was shared with the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, which has been investigating allegations of fraud in the procurement office for serveral months. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case. A spokeswoman for the prosecutor had no immediate comment.

Navtej Sarna, spokesman for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, said he was not aware of Bahel's suspension or the allegations against him and would look into it before making any comment.

Bahel could face charges including wire fraud and conspiracy.

The report was compiled by the Procurement Task Force, formed in January to pursue allegations of fraud in the procurement department. Many of the claims arose in the wake of the U.N. oil for Food scandal.

The father and son refused to speak with the task force.